



Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee



January 13th, 2020

Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee

January 8th 2020

Chairperson Tom Cannon called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM at Matthews Town Hall.

Quorum: A quorum was established. Members present were: Charleen Thompson, Jack Santaniello, James Munoz, Peter Chryst, Jim Thurman and Tom Cannon. Theresa Chance, the Town Rep, was also present. Those not present were Larry Stawicki, Fred Baylor, Michael Vento and Mike Kipp.

Guests welcomed: Nico Iannelli (Leader Queen City Honor Flight) invited, Tim Woods (VFW Post Indian Trail), Mark Tofano (Town resident).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. The Moment of Reflection was the review of the report to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners completed by the MVAC, "Quick Review of MVAC Accomplishments for the Past Four Years." The MVAC believed it important to list our important accomplishments in one document as a record. This report is attached to the Minutes. It has been sent to the Mayor and Board members.

Minutes Approval: The Minutes from October 2nd, November 6th, and December 4th 2019, were formally approved by vote with the Chair making the motion.

Old Business:

1. Nico Iannelli reviewed the history of the Queen City Honor Flight which was established in October of 2017. It takes about 130 older veterans with 50 or so guardians on a one day trip to Washington, DC to see the city and important monuments. Highest priority are WW2 and Korean War veterans, followed by those from Vietnam War and then the more recent conflicts in the Middle East. The flight is funded via donations for each veteran and guardian. The goal is one flight in the spring and another in the fall. Funding now only allows the May flight. MVAC funded a Vietnam veteran who is a Matthews's resident, Mike Evans, from the Matthews Purple Heart organization in May 2019. A formal request for Peter Chryst's father, who served during the Vietnam era, was sent in December 2019 for



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consideration for May 16th, 2020 Flight. If he is not selected, MVAC decided to fund Matthews's resident, MSGT Arlene Bolter USA- Ret who served from 1972 to 1994 as a Nurse and Medic being deployed to the Middle East. Nico said decision on the individuals for the May flight will be made January 15th.

2. The Chair stated that James Fuller application to MVAC will be pursued by Mayor Higdon.

New Business:

1. Treasurers Report: No spending in the past month.

2. Service Flag project: The vision is to install US Service Flags from about Kristopher's to the Fire Station on existing poles for special weeks such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day. This requires about four sets of six flags each. An Army flag from Amazon and one from Condor were inspected. The cost of the higher quality Condor flags is about \$965, which does not include brackets. Peter Chryst is working with Lief Fitzpatrick from Public Works on obtaining a cost for the brackets and the poles. A decision will be voted on in February Meeting. Ultimately, this must be approved by the Town Council.

3. Veterans Stepping Stones project: Charleen Thompson agreed to help Michael Vento on this project. It was suggested that it be worked around Halsey Purser Park. Vision and approach must be defined.

4. Fiscal Year 2021 potential activities and projects: A short discussion was held. Some suggestions were Veteran of the Year, Honor Flight, Stepping Stones, Service Flags and supporting American Legion breakfast or lunch for veterans. Charleen suggested possibly using Women of the World organization to provide US Colors to be flown for one day at Matthews Town Hall and then be given to a Matthews's veteran such as Veteran of the Year and Honor Flight individual. MVAC can consider this as we move forward later this FY.

5. Recognition: Can we ask Rene Garner with the Beacon for recognition of what we do? Documents must go through Maureen Keith. It was suggested by Mark Tofano that the Matthews Mint Hill Weekly has agreed to space to discuss what organizations are doing including dates. MVAC needs more time to think through that more clearly and again we need to use Maureen has our aide here also.



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Meeting was adjourned at 9:10PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Cannon".

Tom Cannon

Chair MVAC